

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253365

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SI
GNIFICANT REPORTS

PORTUGAL: KEY MODERATE ASSESSES POLITICAL SCENE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION FERREIRA DA CUNHA, AN
ANTUNES MODERATE, TOLD AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI OCTOBER 23 THAT
THE MODERATES AIMED TO CLEAN THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE
MINISTRIES, RESTORE MILITARY DISCIPLINE, AND GAIN CONTROL
OF THE MASS MEDIA. HE ADDED THAT:

--THE "NINE" HAD DISCOVERED THE PRESIDENT MAKES DE-
CISIONS "MUCH EASIER IF WE MAKE THEM FOR HIM."

--THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE, CONTINUE
TO CONCENTRATE ON PUSHING THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS OUT
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OBLIGING THE GOP TO TURN ANGO-
LA OVER TO THE MPLA.

--PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS FIRM IN THE FACE OF
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FRONTAL ATTACKS, BUT WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO LOW KEY PRES-

SURE FROM THOSE AROUND HIM--NOTABLY TWO LEFTIST MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WHILE I AM NOT AS PESSIMISTIC AS MOST OF MY NATO COLLEAGUES NOR AS OPTIMISTIC AS FERREIRA DE CUNHA, I AM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO MAKE HEADWAY WITH ITS OVERALL STRATEGY. BUT THE COURSE IS STILL UPHILL. (CONFIDENTIAL)
LISBON 6176, 10/23.)

UNEF MANDATE RENEWED

THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTED 13-0 TO RENEW THE UNEF MANDATE FOR ONE YEAR. CHINA AND IRAQ DID NOT PARTICIPATE. (UNCLASSIFIED) USUN 5275, 10/23.) INGERSOLL

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